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LITURGICAL SPECIALISTS

MEET IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES -- A choral celebration of the Episcopal liturgy and the honoring of a distinguished Roman Catholic layman were among the high points of the recent meeting of the North American Academy for Liturgy here. The Academy is a professional organization for professors of liturgy, executives of denominational liturgical commissions, liturgical artists, and other specialists in this field.

The 1981 meeting was held in early January on the campus of Loyola Marymount University here, under the presidency of an Episcopalian, the Rev. Louis Weil, professor of liturgics at Nashotah House near Milwaukee. Approximately 130 members were present.

In addition to extended discussions of various scholarly and pastoral topics, members heard a report by the Rev. James F. White, of Perkins School of Theology in Dallas and well known Methodist leader, on the teaching of liturgy in accredited theological seminaries of all denominations in the United States. Although many such schools now have substantial liturgics courses taught by faculty members with scholarly qualifications in this field, many others do not. White pointed out that whereas members of churches usually regard the leadership of worship as a most important function of their pastors, many theological schools continue to view this as an optional or unnecessary field in the professional training of their students.

The conference Eucharist was celebrated on the feast of the Epiphany by Weil, assisted by the Rev. Mary Atwood, deacon, and Fritz Frurip, a sub-deacon, both of St. John's Church, Los Angeles. A musical setting Weil had himself composed for Rite II was used.

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Each year the academy confers the Berakah Award, honoring someone for exceptional service in the field of liturgy. This year's award went to Frank Kacmarcek of St. Paul, Minn., designer and graphic artist. The church of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., is among the best known architectural creations in which Kacmarcek has taken part. For the past 30 years, he has designed the cover every month for the magazine, Worship (formerly known as Orate Fratres).

For the coming year, the Rev. Don Saliers of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, will serve as president.

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